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Summer Food and Fun

Summer
Food Service
Program for
Children

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

FNS-174



What happens when school is out?

The Summer Food Service Program for Children!

This USDA food service program provides nutritious meals and snacks for children in needy areas during summer months.

Nonprofit agencies which qualify as sponsors get Federal dollars to pay for meals and snacks served to children at sites like schools, churches, playgrounds, and parks. They also get training and technical assistance to start and operate the program.

If you would like to help feed needy children this summer, the information that follows will tell you how the summer food program works. For more details, contact the agency listed on the back.



Can I be a sponsor?

If you are a public or private nonprofit, nonresidential institution or residential summer camp, you may be eligible to sponsor a summer program. In past years, summer food program sponsors have been churches, social service organizations, residential summer camps, city government agencies, and school systems.

To be eligible, you must:

- provide a continuing year-round service to the community. (Certain exceptions may be allowed by the administering agency.)
- serve meals on a regular schedule to children from needy areas, or provide meals as part of an organized program for enrolled children in camps.
- operate the program in areas where at least one-third of the children would qualify for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, or you must qualify as a camp.
- demonstrate to your administering agency your financial and administrative ability to operate the program.
- accept financial and administrative responsibility at all sites where you serve meals under the program.
- demonstrate your ability to comply with program

regulations.

- be able to keep children at your site while meals are eaten.
- have enough personnel to supervise, operate, manage, and monitor each site.

What help is available?

The government agency that administers the Summer Food Service Program for Children in your State will help you apply for, set up, and operate a meal service. In most States, either the State department of education or the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regional office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the administering agency.

Technical Assistance

The people at your administering agency can help you in several ways. They can provide guidance on operations, program management, training, and recordkeeping. They can also help make sure that people who run the program understand and follow program regulations.

Reimbursements

As an approved sponsor, you will submit claims to your administering agency for money to reimburse your costs of operating and administering the program.

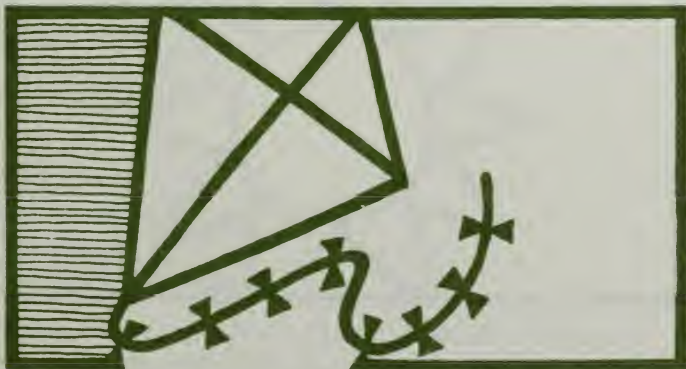
Reimbursements for operating expenses cover the costs of food, labor for food preparation and service, and certain other items like utensils and napkins.

Additional funds are also available for administrative expenses.

The reimbursements cover the meals served to all eligible children.

Who can I serve?

You can serve children who are 18 years of age and younger, and all handicapped people participating in school programs for the handicapped.



What are my responsibilities?

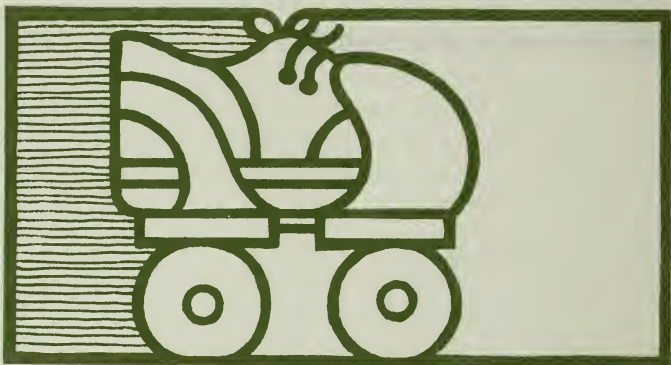
As a sponsor, you must meet certain program guidelines to make sure that children receive

nutritious and appealing meals. You must:

- serve meals that meet USDA standards for quality and nutrition.
- be responsible for appropriate records and finances for each site.
- meet all Summer Food Service Program contractual agreements.

In addition to the sponsor's responsibilities, each site must:

- keep accurate records.
- make sure meals served meet meal pattern requirements.
- make sure meals are served only to children.
- make sure meals are eaten at the site.



What about meals?

Your administering agency determines which combination of breakfast, lunch, supper, or snacks each site can serve. Meals must meet minimum USDA requirements to ensure that children get the nourishing food they need to grow strong and healthy.

As a sponsor you can have food prepared in several ways. The meals can be prepared at the site, at a central kitchen serving several sites, or by a commercial food service management company. In deciding which method of meal preparation to use, you should consider the cost and number of meals needed, the types of meals served, and the kinds and number of sites participating in the program.



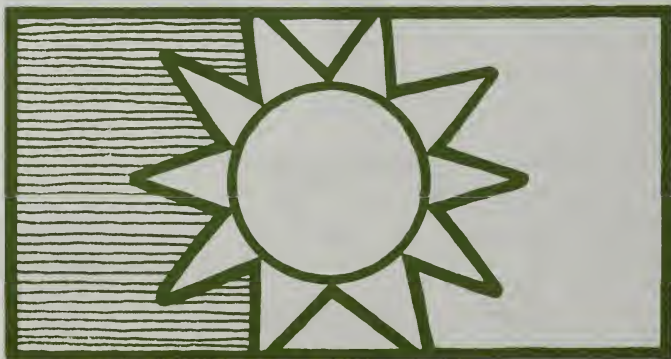
To make sure children get highly quality meals, your administering agency will help you develop food specifications and meal quality standards.

Where can I apply?

To participate in the Summer Food Service Program you must apply to your administering agency each year. Final application deadlines vary by State. As a general rule, most States require applications before the program starts operating statewide.

For details on the Summer Food Service Program for Children, contact the office listed on the back of this brochure or Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Administered in your State by:



Rules for acceptance and participation in this program are the same for all, without regard to race, color, handicap, or national origin.

Revised February 1979